

A PERIOD OF ARMED TRUCE

cow in 1922, he revealed that after initial successes the Communist movement in Iran suffered serious setbacks and that it followed closely the orders of the Comintern:

A party that had not gone through a phase of long years of organization, a party in whose ranks no doctrinaire experts were to be found, a party that was working isolated in a region dominated by semicolonial policy could not in a short time strengthen itself and stand on its own feet. The organizers committed numerous errors and turned to recrimination and to internal dissensions. At the beginning of 1922 energetic intervention of the Executive Committee of the Communist International re-established peace. In substance, the party had remained faithful to its principles.²¹

By 1922, according to Sultan-zadeh, the party had shrunk to only 1,500 members, yet it seemed that this shrinkage was beneficial from the organizational and ideological viewpoint. Soviet press and publications were at that time quite optimistic about the success of the Communists in Iran, because the party managed to organize a number of trade unions and faithfully followed the plan elaborated in Moscow by the Oriental Bureau and by the International Trade Unions Council (Mezhsovprom).²²

On September 17, 1922, *Pmvda* analyzed a series of demands formulated in Teheran by the pro-Communist paper *Haqiqat*. They were:

- (1) Immediate ending of martial law in all regions of Iran.
- (2) Release of all political prisoners.
- (3) Reappearance of all the newspapers that were suspended without previous judgment.
- (4) Lifting of censorship.
- (5) Freedom of assembly and association.
- (6) Freedom to bring to justice officials guilty of embezzlement and also ministers, parliamentary deputies, and foreign advisers.

- (7) Adoption of laws regulating the relationship between labor and capital.
- (8) Prohibition of the use by estate owners of violent methods against peasants and the adoption of laws to protect the peasantry.
- (9) Distribution of state lands among the peasants.
- (10) Pages 60 ff.
- (11) v. Ossetrov, "Les Partis politiques en Perse," *Novy Vostok*, I, 147 ff.